



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Engineer Research and  
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# News Release

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## **OGC Vision Award Recipient is Selected ERDC-TEC Technical Director**

Mr. Kevin Backe of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC), Topographic Engineering Center (TEC), Alexandria, Va., recently was selected as a Technical Director (TD) in TEC's Office of the Technical Directors (OTD).

As the TD for Research and Development, Mr. Backe is responsible for planning, formulating, and promoting ERDC-TEC's research, development, and acquisition program efforts in the area of Topography, Imagery and Geospatial (TIG) technology. Previously, he served as an Associate TD (ATD) in OTD. In that assignment, he was responsible for planning, formulating, coordinating and reviewing TEC's military, civil, and reimbursable programs in TIG technology. This assignment also afforded him the opportunity to participate in the Future Combat System activities by coordinating ERDC-relevant programs and expertise in this vital Army effort, among others.



For approximately 2 years, Mr. Backe served as a Senior Project Scientist, involved in geospatial technology and standards activities. As the Geospatial Standards Coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), he managed the development and review of all geospatial standards within the Corps. Mr. Backe was USACE and Army's representative to DoD, federal, national (American National Standards Institute), international (International Standardization Organization), industry (OpenGIS Consortium (OGC)) and GIS/geospatial technology standard organizations.

Earlier this year, in a ceremony sponsored by the OGC, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers accepted the first Vision Award for USACE in

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recognition of/for the successful partnership between government and industry. Mr. Backe also received a Vision Award in recognition for his role in launching the OGC program of interoperability testbeds and pilot projects and in bringing other agencies to work together with USACE, pooling requirements and resources to maximize the government's benefit from OGC's efforts. In 1998, he received the Director's Award for Scientific and Technical Achievement.

Mr. Backe holds a bachelor's of arts degree from the University of Maryland (Baltimore County) and a master's of arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif.

The ERDC is the premier research and development facility for the Corps of Engineers. It consists of seven laboratories at four geographic sites, with more than 2,000 employees, \$1.2 billion in facilities, and an annual research program exceeding \$570 million. It conducts research in both military and civil works mission areas for the Department of Defense and the nation. Its primary mission areas include military engineering, battlespace environment, facilities and infrastructure, environmental quality and water resources.